

Merchantville, NJ March 8, 2021

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on ZOOM at 7:30 PM, Monday, March 8, 2021. Mayor Ted Brennan presided. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer were observed for Woman's Day, Councilwoman Scarpa and all pioneers. Announcement was made that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the "Open Public Meetings Act".

ROLL CALL:

Council Present: Sean Fitzgerald, Andrew McLoone, Maria Nina Scarpa, Anthony Perno, Raymond Woods, Daniel Sperrazza and Mayor Edward Brennan. Attorney Timothy Higgins, CFO Denise Moules, Clerk Denise Brouse and Tom Leisse were present.

PUBLIC:

Jennifer North, 317 Woodbine –

Why did the Diversity agenda go out 3 hours before the meeting?

it is a new committee – just confirmed at last meeting, they are just getting started.

My OPRA is still delayed and not provided the information that didn't require redacted information.

When will we have minutes for diversity meeting?

Would like public portion in the beginning and at the end of the council meetings.

Kerry Mentzer, 201 St. James – Opt-In for cannabis – we should opt out and see what we can learn. Colorado – 79% opted out rising homelessness and other crimes. We should at least table it and read report.

John Wackes, 214 St. James – Supports opting out of cannabis resolution.

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 21-02 Exceed the Municipal Budget Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

NONE

On the motion of Ms. Scarpa and second of Mr. Fitzgerald Council approved the following Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE 21-02
CALENDAR YEAR 2021
MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 1.0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville in the County of Camden finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2021 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that a 2.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$102,769.00 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville, in the County of Camden, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2021 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Merchantville shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$143,876.60, and that the CY 2021 municipal budget for the Borough of Merchantville be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be file with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE

INTRODUCED: February 8, 2021

ADOPTED: March 8, 2021

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- On the motion of Mr. Perno and second of Mr. Fitzgerald Council approved the following minutes - Council 1/11/2021, Council 2/8/202, Caucus 1/25/21

ENGINEER REPORT: See Attached

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Safety concerns at Browning Road and Chestnut Avenue regarding vehicles and traffic, this was discussed at the Diversity meeting.
- Access ramp from Chestnut Station to multi use path
- Letter from the American Legion – Signage on Maple Avenue for direction to the Community Center, on the agenda for the next meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Ms. Scarpa – Thank you to the Police-Mayor-Clerk senior residents and general public for helping with the vaccination appointments. Court \$4,373. 272 added 155 disposed it is a 60% decrease from previous year. 3 virtual courts in February. Shade Tree Commission – New members working on training. Accreditations updated, tree report will be sent to CME regarding trees to be removed. Submitted budget, \$142,000 requested to remove priority trees and pruning of trees. \$22,400 for replanting trees. Maintaining our tree canopy is important in order to continue to get trees.

Mr. McLoone – Fire Department had 19 calls of service for the year. Fire department finalizing Mr. Bunny. Police had 1,112 calls, 130 traffic, 99 parking, 35 arrests. No covid related issues in department, 3 save referrals. Police are at full staff. LEAD training completed, and 105 positive interactions in February. Thank for great work on support of vaccine event to move vaccine dates forward.

Mr. Fitzgerald – Public Works, thank you for snow removal, great job. Thank you Mr. Perno for the meeting and filling in gaps/history of department. Hired a 3rd person for public works. Started street sweeping at the east side of

town. The crew started on the east side because it was close to the public works building. Moved and discussed trash can moves on public areas. Public Events – St. Patrick’s Day and Easter events are being confirmed. Website updates. The Intern is working on business updates, she will also work on meetings and agendas. Merchantville Facebook pages are not official (only Borough of Merchantville is official). MBPA – concerned about parking during reconstruction of Centre Street and possible signage for Verizon. Board of Education – 2% increase being discussed. ADA compliance.

Mr. Woods- Parks and Playgrounds update – modifications needed, safety procedure, outdoor only – optimistic. Looking to wait and re-access in May. Diversity Committee – 2 flag raising events. May - Black Lives Matter and LGBTQIA+. June -Rainbow Flag. Consider for next caucus meeting. More inclusive calendar for year and future discussion.

Mr. Sperrazza – No Report.

Mr. Perno – Bills List. Walk on Use of Facility for Baseball at Community Center.

Ms. Moules – Working on budget meetings and received most numbers.

Trash/Recycling Collection – looking at all options. Meeting setup with staff and council and will get something in place.

CLERK’S REPORT:

St Patrick Day event in town
Easter Bunny and Egg event
Interviewing for Administrative Assistant
Blood Drive March 11th from 2-7 at Community Center
Cathy Aaron retiring – lunch will be on March 24th
Vaccine registration event will be on March 11th and 12th

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Downtown Redevelopment Area – Follow up to Pedestrian Street Concept Presentation - We are implementing discussion items and scheduling meeting with other entities to work together.
- b. Food Truck Ordinance – Setting up a meeting with Mara and should have update for Caucus meeting.
- c. Senior Vaccination Registration – Public Vaccination Registration Events – March 11th Wellwood, March 12th Community Center – We moved 60-70 people up in dates. We will be moving many dates by the end of this week. A letter went out to all residents. From 2,000 shots per day to 4,000 per day.
- d. Trash/Recycling Collection Update -

NEW BUSINESS:

March 11th Sustainable Jersey Virtual Luncheon – Merchantville Receiving Award
(login info) <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehjiox6v54f4d658&oseq=&c=&ch=>.
Thank you to all that have been involved with these efforts.

On the motion of Mr. Perno and second of Ms. Scarpa, Council approved the following:

- Use of Facility – Baseball, majority of Merchantville registrations, hold harmless, 50% of members are from Merchantville, bathroom cleanup.

RESOLUTIONS to be read by consent agenda: On the motion of Mr. Perno and second of Mr. McLoone, Council approved the following resolutions:

R21-37

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO INSTALL A HANDICAP SIGN AT THE PARKING SPOT IN FRONT OF 15 POPLAR AVENUE, MERCHANTVILLE

WHEREAS, the Borough chief of police has received a request for a handicap parking sign to be installed at 15 Poplar Avenue, Merchantville, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the police chief and public safety officer has recommended to council that the sign be installed in front of the property at 15 Poplar Avenue, Merchantville, New Jersey;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville does hereby approve the installation of a handicap parking sign in front of the property at 15 Poplar Avenue, Merchantville, New Jersey.

R21-38

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR RECREATION FACILITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE CAMDEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND, RECREATION, AND HISTORIC TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden, State of New Jersey recognizes that parks and recreational facilities are important to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Merchantville further recognizes the need for renovations to the Merchantville multi use path with construction of a raised trail crossing Centre Street and Chestnut Avenue for the public safety of pedestrian's;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey hereby does authorize submission of an application for Recreation Facility Enhancement Project Funding from the Camden County Open Space, Farmland, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund in the amount of \$25,000.

On the motion of Mr. Sperrazza and second of Mr. McLoone, Council approved the following resolution as amended to change the date from 2021 to 2022:

R21-39

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MERCHANTVILLE, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A CERTAIN DESIGNATED PORTION OF WEST CHESTNUT AVENUE, AND THE TEMPORARY

**SUSPENSION OF ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 5-14 AND
PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 5-15 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH
OF MERCHANTVILLE**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville (hereinafter, “Mayor & Council”) seek to establish a balance between the competing and conflicting public interests in promoting the reestablishment of public commerce in the Borough of Merchantville, while maintaining safe social distancing to minimize the threat and spread of the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor & Council, in recognizing the need for a viable business district in the Borough, have determined that temporary outdoor restaurant seating is imperative in the promotion of this compelling public interest, provided that the implementation of same will occur on a temporary basis, and does not contravene any other public health and safety concerns as set forth in the Borough's and any other State or County regulatory requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor & Council desire to implement such measure as expeditiously as possible to minimize red tape and bureaucratic delay, but subject to a lawful process that will protect the interests of the residents of Borough of Merchantville and its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor & Council acknowledge the existence of the Governor's Executive Orders in respect of the restricted operations of retail businesses and restaurants at this time and, thus, such time period of this relief shall be extended to November 30, 2022 or further action of the Mayor and the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville, whichever shall occur sooner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville that the portion of West Chestnut Street, immediate adjacent to Block 22, Lot 21 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Merchantville, from the crosswalk at its intersection with South Centre Street, running in a general westerly direction to a point a distance of one hundred, twenty (120') feet, as so designated by the map attached hereto as “Exhibit A,” shall be closed to all vehicular traffic until November 30, 2021, or further action of the Mayor and the Borough Council of the Borough of Merchantville, whichever shall occur sooner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that enforcement of Chapter 5-14, Chapter 5-15(A) and Chapter 5-15(B) of the Code of the Borough of Merchantville, as it relates to “public streets, lanes or sidewalks” only, shall be temporarily suspended in the areas so designated the map attached hereto as “Exhibit A,” until November 30, 2022, during the hours as set forth in these Chapters, respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chapter 5-14, Chapter 5-15(A) and Chapter 5-15(B) of the Code of the Borough of Merchantville shall be in full force and effect in all other areas of the Borough of Merchantville during the aforementioned time periods.

Council pulled resolution R21-40 Opting in to Adult Use Recreational Cannabis

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

On the motion of Mr. Perno and second of Ms. Scarpa, Council approved the following resolutions:

R21-41
RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Report of the Department of Accounts and Auditing be accepted and spread upon the minutes and the Treasurer be is hereby authorized to pay bill approved therein.				
	CURRENT FUND		REVENUE	BUDGET
	CHECKS CURRENT FUND	2020 BUDGET		\$ 2,809.51
		2021 BUDGET		\$ 197,146.71
		GRANTS		\$ 7,843.59
		PFRS		
		PERS		
		DEBT SERVICE		
		BOARD OF EDUCATION*		\$ 1,505,146.50
		MEDICAL DEDUCTIBLE		
		CAMDEN COUNTY		\$ 540,722.51
	WIRE TRANSFERS PAYROLL	2/12/21- 2/26/21		\$ 174,322.44
	WIRES / MANUAL CHECKS			\$ 39,944.23
		TOTAL CURRENT	\$ -	\$ 2,467,935.49
	SEWER UTILITY			
	CHECKS SEWER FUND	2020 BUDGET		
		2021 BUDGET		\$ 2,125.00
		DEBT SERVICE		
	WIRE TRANSFERS PAYROLL	2/12/21- 2/26/21		\$6,560.57
	WIRE NJEIT LOAN			
	WIRES /MANUAL CHECKS			
		TOTAL SEWER	\$ -	\$ 8,685.57
	GENERAL CAPITAL FUND			
	CHECK CAPITAL FUND			8431,20
	MANUAL CHECK			\$ 4,000.00
	WIRE TRANSFERS PAYROLL			
		TOTAL CAPITAL	\$ -	\$ 12,431.20
	TRUST FUND			
	CHECK TRUST OTHER FUND			\$ 4,860.21
	REDEVELOPER TRUST			
	WIRE TRANSFERS PAYROLL	2/12/21- 2/26/21		7,047.22
	WIRES / MANUAL CHECKS			3,900.00

		TOTAL TRUST	\$ -	\$ 15,807.43
	SEWER CAPITAL FUND			
	CHECK SEWER CAPITAL			
	MANUAL CHECKS			
	WIRE TRANSFERS			
	PAYROLL			
		TOTAL SEWER CAPITAL	\$ -	\$ -
	ANIMAL TRUST FUND			
	ANIMAL TRUST CHECK			\$ 114.60
		TOTAL ANIMAL TRUST	\$ -	\$ 114.60
		TOTAL BILL LIST & MANUAL CHECKS/WIRE	\$ -	\$ 2,504,974.29
			GRAND TOTAL	\$ 2,504,974.29

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Happy St. Patrick's Day

PRIVATE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT: On the motion of Mr. Woods and second of Mr. Perno the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

**ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED
OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING
AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Denise Brouse, Borough Clerk



515 Grove Street
Suite 1B
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
T: 856-547-0505
F: 856-547-9174
www.pennoni.com

ENGINEER'S REPORT
FOR
MERCHANTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
March 8, 2021

The items for the Council's consideration include the following:

- A. FY2019 NJDOT Municipal Aid Road Program (MERCH 19005)
 - 1. The concrete and paving work have been completed on Clifton and Ivins. My office is reviewing the completion of punch list items. Contractor still has items remaining to close out.
- B. FY2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Road Program (MERCH 19006)
 - 1. My office has revised the plans and specs to address review comments by the NJDOT.
- C. Glenwood Avenue Drainage (MERCH 19007)
 - 1. My office is working with the NJEPA for the submission of environmental review documents for the design of the storm water pump station. My office has received preliminary design comments from NJ Transit Rail Operations. We are working with NJT on access to obtain survey information for final design. My office is scheduling geotechnical field work for final design. My office has contacted vendors for similar pump station designs. We are contacting State offices for the status of Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Water Quality grants.
- D. FY2021 NJDOT Municipal Aid Road Program (MERCH 21003)
 - 1. My office has completed the field work for design. We will couple the design with the FY2020 details and prepare the plans and specifications for submission to the NJDOT for approval to send out for bids.
- E. General Engineering (MERCH 20001)
 - 1. My office is assisting the Borough with recreational improvements at the Community Center.
 - 2. My office is assisting the Borough with coordination of County road improvement projects in the Borough.
 - 3. My office is assisting the Borough with updating the priority list of streets to be rehabilitated within the Borough.
 - 4. My office is assisting the Borough with reviewing stormwater issues within the Borough.
 - 5. My office is assisting the Borough with reviewing sewer connections as needed.
 - 6. My office is assisting the Borough with coordination of road opening permits and street restoration as needed.